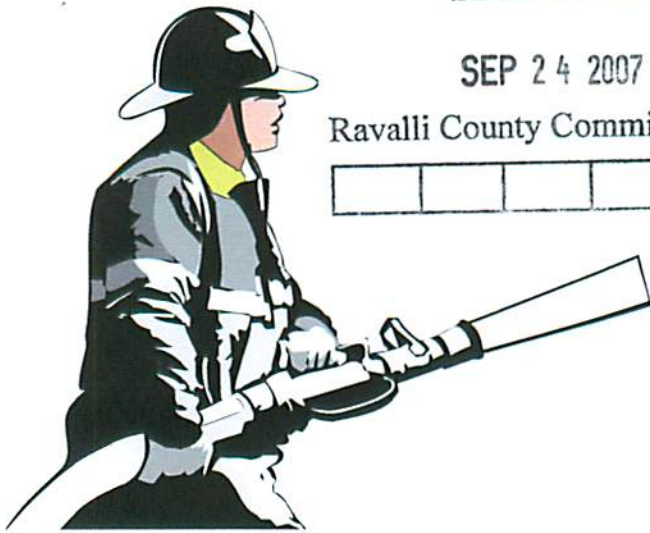


RECEIVED

cc: Alex Beal

SEP 24 2007



Ravalli County Commissioner THREE MILE FIRE DISTRICT
1064 THREE MILE CR. RD.
STEVENSVILLE, MT 59870
ATTN.: CHIEF GIESE

Saturday, September 22, 2007

Ravalli County 911
205 Bedford, Suite H
Hamilton, Montana 59840
Attn: Joann Hamilton, Director

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I received your letter today, Saturday, September 22, 2007 which was post marked Friday, September 21, 2007, informing me that effective September 20, 2007 you have advised your staff to send the closest available ambulance to medical calls in the Three Mile Fire District.

The letter and your actions greatly concern me and upset me. I have several questions regarding your decision.

1. Why was a decision made that affects the Three Mile Fire District and its Citizens without any discussions with the Five Elected Board Members of the Fire District, the QRU Captain or me, the Fire Chief?
2. Why were decisions made and implemented, and then a letter sent to me informing me of this decision, after the fact?
3. Where did the information come from to make this decision?
4. When and where were the discussions held with the County Attorney and the County Commissioner, and why were the Five Elected Board Members of the Fire District not informed of these meetings?

On August 21st, 2001 the Board of Directors of the Three Mile Fire District signed Resolution No. 3201, accepting the "charge of providing Emergency Medical Care to the Citizens of the district", and as a part of this resolution, it was requested that Missoula Emergency Services be paged to all medical calls in our district. Please be advised that we have not rescinded this resolution. To my knowledge the County Board of Commissioners has never accepted responsibility for Emergency Medical Care of the Citizens of the Three Mile Fire District or the Citizens of Ravalli County. The decision of which ambulance to send is the decision of the Five Elected Board Members of the Three Mile Volunteer Fire District, not the Ravalli County Commissions nor the Director of the 911 Center.

Ms. Hamilton, the Three Mile Board of Directors, never signed any agreement with the Sheriff,

since we don't need the Sheriffs approval or permission on how we operate the Fire District. In addition, I see nothing in your letter stating that the Ravalli County Commissioners were informed of any discussion or your decision, only that if I disagree with your decision that I meet with them. In fact, per my conversation with Mr. Rokosch, the Chairman of the Board, he stated that he was never informed of this decision nor did he have any discussions in this matter. Since you pointed out that you are under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, I would assume that you would have at least discussed this with the Board and the Chairman would be aware of this decision.

Ms. Hamilton, your statement, that "we (meaning the 911 center I assume) have not been doing what is expected of us, and that is putting the patient first and providing them with public safety," reeks of a suggestion that the decision of the Board of Directors of the Three Mile Volunteer Fire District was made with some motive other than putting the patient first and providing them with the best care possible. Let me assure you that the decision made by the Board of Directors, was made with a great deal of thought and input from the Citizens of our District and was made only with patient care and public safety in mind. Further more let me remind you, we are the ones who leave our jobs, families and daily duties to respond to calls of help for free, we have nothing to gain by the transportation of patients.

Ms. Hamilton, when you page the Three Mile Quick Response Unit and the Three Mile Fire Volunteers, you **are sending the closest available ambulance**, since the Three Mile Volunteer Fire District has had an ambulance and has been licensed to transport patients for about three years now.

Ms. Hamilton, please advise your staff that they **are not** to send the Stevensville Ambulance to calls in the Three Mile Fire District, unless requested by a Member of the Three Mile Volunteer Department, and that they are to continue to page the **Three Mile Quick Response Unit and Missoula Emergency Medical Services per the resolution of the Board of Directors of the Three Mile Volunteer Fire District**, a copy of which is attached to list letter. If for some reason, you choose to dispatch an ambulance to the Three Mile Fire District, other than those listed or requested, we will turn them away, and we will not, sign a refusal, since we did not request them. In addition, if for some reason the 911 center or its employees fail to do what is expected of them by the Board of Directors of the Three Mile Fire District and implement their decision, you and the employees will be held responsible for any delay in care and timely transport of patients from the District.

In the future I would hope that if you find it necessary to make decision affecting the Citizens of the Three Mile Volunteer Fire District that you would include me and or the Board of Directors of the Fire District in the decision making process.

Sincerely,



Russ Giese

Fire Chief, Three Mile Volunteer Fire District.

cc. file, Ravalli County Commissioners, Ravalli County Attorney, Jim Rokosch



205 Bedford Suite H
Hamilton, Montana 59840
406 363 3033

Russ Giese
Three Mile Fire Dept
1155 Park Ln
Stevensville, Mt. 59870

Dear Mr. Giese,
Effective September 20, 2007, I have advised my staff to send the closest, available ambulance to medical calls in your fire district. This would be the Stevensville Ambulance. This decision was based on the belief that we have not been doing what is expected of us, and that is putting the patient first and providing them with public safety.

We will honor specific requests for a Missoula ambulance, by the patient or patient's family, only. Should the Stevensville ambulance respond, and be turned away by your crew, your crew will be expected to sign the refusal and take on the liability for their actions, as the County, per the County Attorney is not willing to take on the liability that we have for the last several years.

I realize you may have signed an agreement with the Sheriff at that time, Perry Johnson, however Perry is no longer Sheriff and has not been since 2003. Also, we are under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners and not the Sheriff's office, since January 1, 2006.

It is our strong belief that Stevensville Ambulance is well staffed and is appropriately directed by Donna Rennaker, under the auspices of Marcus Daly Hospital and John Bartos. It would be my recommendation, that should you disagree with this, you meet with the Board of County Commissioners, but until then, we are required to do as the County Attorney advises, and send the Stevensville Ambulance to avoid any liability for the county. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Deanna Hamilton, Director

RESOLUTION NO. 3201
CHANGING OF AMBULANCE PAGING PROTOCOL

WHEREAS the Board of the Three Mile Fire District has accepted the charge of providing Emergency Medical Care to the Citizens of its district thru funding and implementation of a Quick Response Unit; and

WHEREAS the Quick Response Unit is not licensed to transport patients, relying on third parties to provide Transport Ambulance Services; and

WHEREAS the sale of the Marcus Daly Hospital Ambulance Service has resulted in the decline of service from the Stevensville Ambulance and the increased time to transport patients to higher medical care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that commencing on the date listed below it shall be the protocol of the Three Mile Fire District and the responsibility of the Ravalli County Dispatch center to Dispatch Missoula Emergency Services to all calls into the Three Mile Fire District where the Three Mile Quick Response Unit or the Three Mile Fire Department are paged and the need for Ambulance transport may be needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the interest of public safety by reducing the number of emergency vehicles responding at code speeds only Missoula Emergency Services shall be paged until such time as a representative of the Three Mile Fire District deems it necessary and requests additional ambulances and/or resources be paged.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2001

Three Mile Board of Directors


John Schmiedeknecht, Chairman


Wayne Stanford, Secretary


Gary Preston, Board Member


Steve Roebke, Board Member


Russ Giese, Three Mile Fire District Chief